

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

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THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR .

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EDITORIAL.

Sir Stanford Cade, K.C.B.

We offer our very heartiest congratulations to Sir Stanford Cade, K.C.B. on the honour of knighthood recently conferred upon him by H. M. the King in recognition of the great services rendered by him during the war period as Senior Consulting Surgeon to the R.A.F. and, now that he has returned to civil life, we look forward to seeing him at meetings of the Circle.

First Philatelic Exhibition, Egypt. Cairo, 28th February - 8th March, 1946.

This exhibition was sponsored by the Philatelic Society of Egypt, lately the Club Philatelique d'Egypte, and it must be a source of great satisfaction to philatelists in Egypt and in all parts of the world to know that it has been such a success. Much of the credit is due to its president, Ibrahim Chaftar who we are all glad to see has been created a Bey by H. M. King Farouk in recognition of the valuable part he has played in the interests of his country. We warmly congratulate him on his new honour. He is an esteemed member of our Circle and it was at his instigation that a complete set of the "Quarterly Circular" was exhibited at the exhibition in Class XVI, "Literature and Philatelic Accessories" and members will be gratified to learn that this exhibit was awarded a Silver Gilt medal.

New information brought to light by the exhibition has been sent to us by Ibrahim Chaftar Bey and we quote from his letter, dated April 24th, 1946 -

"I give you hereunder an outline of the documents exhibited by our Postal Administration.

When I was looking through the old files of the 3rd issue period I discovered by chance a lot of Pellas letters to Muzzi Bey, nearly a dozen. The dates vary from 1863 to 1865. I was not satisfied until I gathered "the documents relative to the 1st issue of Egypt" and the idea started in my mind

to build on them the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the first Egyptian stamp by holding a big exhibition.

These documents throw light on many problems up to now unresolved and I will later try to enlarge on them in an article.

The following facts can be taken as certain :-

- (a) It was in June 1864 that Muzzi proposed to the Khedive the issue of the first adhesive postage stamp for use by his Posta Europea. Muzzi was in touch with his friends, Pellas frères, as from 1863.
- (b) Muzzi received permission in April 1865 to issue these stamps but for the benefit of the Egyptian Government after the Posta Europea had been acquired by them.
- (c) The stamps were printed, gummed and perforated in Italy before being despatched to Egypt.
- (d) The printing of the I P.T. stamps on unwatermarked paper was due to the spoiling of large quantities of paper owing to its bad manufacture. The two printings were carried out on paper made in Italy.
- (e) Details of quantities of printed and the cost are given in the original invoice of Pellas frères dated 30th September, 1865, which I also found.
- (f) Detailed list of quantities of stamps requested from the Ministry of Finance from 17th December, 1865 to 14th June, 1867, gives numbers issued.

I can only give you this brief summary for the moment but you can rest assured that I shall be pleased to communicate all discoveries to my friends of the E.S.C. in full detail through our next Journal ( July 1946 ).

( signed ) Ibrahim Chaftar. "

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The Philatelic Society of Egypt has, and is, doing much for Egyptian philately and we would urge all students of Egyptian postal affairs to support this Society. Its journal, L'Orient Philatelique, which appears four times a year, contains much valuable information including reports of recent research; a packet is circulated in this country by its British secretary - Mr. H. M. Wallace and there is also a New Issue service. The subscription is £1 per annum with an entrance fee of 5/- to new members.

Mr. Wallace's address is - 4, Alexander Drive, Edinburgh, 11.

THE CROWNED CIRCLE HANDSTAMPS OF EGYPT.

By Brigadier C. D. Rawson, C.B.E.; D.S.O.

The following notes are based on data from :-

- A. "The handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire, 1680-1900." Robson Lowe. pp. 87 and 278 of the third edition, 1940-41.
- B. "Some reflections on the Crowned Circle Stamps ." by Leslie R. Ray. which appeared in "The Philatelist" for September, 1945.

in conjunction with the Egypt Study Circle Record.

On May 6th 1840 Great Britain issued her first adhesive postage stamp - the penny black - an event which caused many of the colonies to wish to do likewise. The exceptions were India, Australia and the South African colonies.

The Colonial Post Offices at that time were branches of the G.P.O., London which provided them with their postal supplies. The G.P.O. however, did not favour this idea, possibly because they feared that large numbers of different stamps might confuse the postal staffs and encourage the forger.

To meet this demand, therefore, the G.P.O. agreed to sanction a standard handstamp for use at ports served by British vessels carrying the mails.

The design was a Crown surmounting a double or single circle, inside which was inscribed the statement "PAID AT....." followed by the name of the port or Colony.

They were issued to postmasters or postal agents with instructions to strike them on letters, etc. when the postage had been pre-paid. A second postal marking was required to show the date on which the letter was posted, and the rate charged was to be inscribed in manuscript or by handstruck stamp on the front of the letter.

Robson Lowe first named these "Crowned Circle Stamps". They are to be distinguished from other circular postmarks surmounted by a crown by virtue of the receipt for payment of postage which they bear upon them, and the absence of any date.

There are more than twenty different types of these Crowned Circle Hand-Stamps and they were issued to forty or more British and Foreign ports served by British mail boats. Leslie Ray in his able article discusses many of them but does not give any details of the "Crowned Circles of Egypt".

The following notes are based on material which I have examined, belonging to members of the Egypt Study Circle.

Three British Post Offices were established in Egypt; at Alexandria, Suez and Cairo, in that sequence, prior to the opening of these there were British Packet ( or Postal ) Agents who dealt with the mails at each of these places.

ALEXANDRIA. Packet Agency opened August 1839.

Post Office opened March 17th, 1858.

Post Office closed April 1st, 1878.

Only one type of Crowned Circle stamp is known for Alexandria and it consists of two concentric "circles" both of which are intersected at the top by a crown. These are not true circles, being slightly flattened at the top. The horizontal diameters are 29 mm. and 26.5 mm. and the vertical diameters 27 mm. and 25 mm. The Crown is 13 mm. high and 8.5 mm. wide. Within the circle is the legend "PAID AT ALEXANDRIA" in three lines. The letters are often rather blurred and their height is from 3 mm. to 4 mm. The stamp was struck in both black and red inks, but I have only been able to examine the red variety. The stamp is believed to have been registered at the G.P.O. On November 13th, 1841, but was not put into use at Alexandria until May, 1843.

	<u>Earliest date.</u>	<u>Latest date.</u>
In black.	?	?
In red.	October 22nd, 1845. (Besly)	December 23rd, 1857. (Hinde)

Adhesive postage stamps were issued by the G.P.O. to the Alexandria Post Office on August 2nd, 1859, and covers with Crowned Circle Stamps later than this have not been seen. It is possible therefore that the Crowned Circles were superseded on the arrival of the adhesives. On the other hand Robson Lowe states that in 1867 currency stamps in a circular frame to the values of 4d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 9d, 1/-, and 1/4 were issued for use with this stamps, but no copies have yet been recorded. ( p.87.)



<u>SUEZ.</u>	Packet Agency opened	January 1st, 1847.
	Post Office opened	January 1st, 1861.
	Post Office closed	April 1st, 1878.

Suez has one type of Crowned Circle stamp. Two concentric " circles " both intersected by a crown at the top. These are also flattened. Horizontal diameters, 23 mm. and 21 mm. Vertical diameters 22 mm. and 20.5 mm. The crown is 7 mm. high and 10 mm. wide. The letters of " PAID " and " SUEZ " are 3 mm. high while those of " AT " are only 2 mm. high. The stamps was struck in black and possibly red. I have only been able to examine the black variety and I have been unable to get definite evidence that the red variety ever existed. The stamp taken into use at the Suez Post Office on July 16th, 1847.

	<u>Earliest date.</u>	<u>Latest date.</u>
	March 25th, 1859 (7Sub)	
In black.	April 27th, 1859. ( Hinde )	March 27th, 1860 ( Byam )
In red.	?	?

Adhesive stamps were issued by the Suez Post Office on August 2nd, 1859, so that they appear to have been used concurrently with the Crowned Circle stamps at any rate for a short period.





The British Post Office at Suez was closed on April 1st, 1878 and yet the specimen illustrated on this page bears a clearly struck date stamp of July 31st, 1882. This is 4 years and more after the Egyptian Post Office had taken over all postal duties at Suez. A possible explanation of the phenomenon is the following—

When the British Post Office was closed, a British Postal Agent was installed at Suez whose function was merely to superintend the transit of the British mails to and from the East Indies. Mr. A. J. Tweedie, who went to Suez in 1882, confirms this and states that his name was Hammond, his office was close to the Suez hotel and that he had been there for some years. 1882 was the year of the Arabi Pasha Rebellion in Egypt and Alexandria was bombarded by our fleet on July 11th, 1882, 20 days before the date of this letter.

The salient dates from a postal history point of view are these :-

- (1) British adhesives issued to Suez P.o. August 2nd, 1859.
- (2) British Suez Post Office closed. April 1st, 1878.
- (3) Expeditionary Force left England accompanied by a postal unit supplied with special obliterator and current adhesive stamps. July 29th, 1882.
- (4) Notice about these adhesive stamps posted in Office in Egypt. Aug. 11th, 1882.
- (5) Earliest known cancellation of these stamps. August 29th, 1882.
- (6) All Army mail handled by Egyptian P.O. October 6th, 1882.

I suggest that, at the end of July 1882, owing to the confusion caused by the rebellion, the Egyptian Post Office at Suez was either not functioning or considered unsafe for British mail and the railway was cut. A British Post Office had therefore to be extemporised and Hammond arranged this. British adhesive had not arrived and therefore Hammond was instructed to use, or on his own initiative did use, the old Crowned Circle Handstamp to frank letters. He would not have used the "B O 2" obliterator (see Cairo, below) as this never had franking power. Any data or suggestions which tend to support or refute the

above theory will be welcomed.

<u>CAIRO.</u>	Packet Agency opened	?
	Post Office opened	February 23rd, 1859.
	Post Office closed	- - 1873.

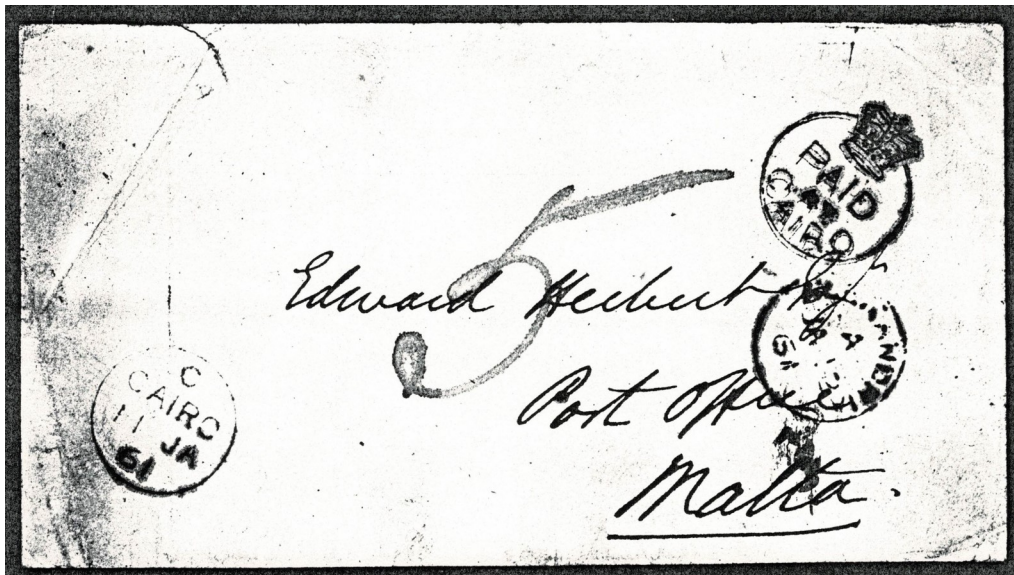
Cairo had only one type of Crowned Circle stamp which differed from those already described as it had only a single circle intersected by a crown at the top. This is a true circle and is not flattened; diameter 20 mm. The crown is 9 mm. high and 9.5 mm wide. Within the circle is the legend " PAID AT CAIRO " in three lines. " PAID " and " CAIRO " are 3 mm. high, while the letters " AT " are only 2 mm. high. This stamp was struck only in red.

It came into use at Cairo on March 23rd, 1859 together with a circular date stamp.

Adhesive stamps were issued to the Cairo Post Office on August 2nd, 1859, simultaneously with those to Alexandria and Suez. On this date the Alexandria and Suez Post Offices were issued with obliterators - B01 and B02 respectively- for the cancellation of the adhesives but Cairo was never issued with an obliterator and the date stamp could not be used for this purpose. Letters posted uncanceled but with the Cairo date stamp alongside them. On arrival at the port the stamps were obliterated B01 or B02.

	<u>Earliest date.</u>	<u>Latest date.</u>
In red	April 25th, 1860. ( Hinde )	January 11th, 1861. ( Byam )

The Cairo Crowned Circle stamp appears to have been used concurrently with adhesives and was not immediately superseded by them.





H A N D - S T A M P S R E C O R D E D .

	Crowned Circle		Addressed to.	Instructions.	Malta Purification.	Rate Charged			Date Stamp			Time of Transit.	Arrival Stamp.		Owner.
	Type	Colour				Rate.	Colour.	Type.	Type.	Colour.	Date.		Type.	Date.	
<u>ALEXANDRIA.</u> Cover.	Double circle	Red.	Miss Jackson London.	via Marseilles & PAID.	has mark and cuts.	1/8	Red.	in MSS.	Double Circle.	Blue.	22 Oct. 1945	11 to 12 days	London circular red.	3 Nov. 1845	Besly.
Cover.	Double circle	Red.	Messrs Thornton Cork.	via Marseilles & PAID.	Nil.	?	Red.	in MSS.	Double Circle.	Blue.	24 Mar. 1856	9 days.	London circular red. Cork circular green.	2 Apl. 3 Apl. 1856	Byam.
Cover.	"	"	Mr Shephard Lemington Spa	Ditto	Nil	1/8	"	"	"	"	20 Sep. 1859	9 days.			Bird. Sep. 19 1859
Cover.	Double circle	Red.	S. Walker, Esqre London.	via Marseilles	Nil.	9d.	Red.	in MSS.	Double Circle.	Blue.	23 Dec. 1857	8 days.	London Paid circular red.	31 Dec. 1857	Hinde.
<u>SUEZ.</u> Cover.	Double circle	Black.	S. Darley, Esqre London.	via Southampton.	Nil.	Nil.	-	-	Single circle	Black.	27 April 1859	24 days.	London circular red.	21 May 1859	Hinde.
Cover.	Double circle	Black.	R. Ventriss Esq. Surrey, via London.	via Marseilles Stamped	Nil.	9d.	Red.	in MSS.	Single circle	Black.	27 Mar. 1860	9 days.	Ripley Surrey circular.	5 Apl. 1860	Byam.
Piece.	Double circle	Black.	?	?	?	?	?	?	Single circle	Black.	31 July 1882	?	?	?	Rawson.
<u>CAIRO.</u> Cover.	Single Circle	Red.	S. Barnett, Ohio, U.S.A.	-	-	01-May	Red.	in MSS.	Single circle	Black	25 Apl. 1860	22 days.	Transit London Paid circular red Boston Br. Pkt. 5	5 May 1860 17 May 1860	Hinde.
Cover.	Single Circle	Red.	E. Herbert Esq. Post Office Malta.	-	-	5d	Red.	in MSS.	single circle single circle	Black Red.	C Cairo 11 JA. 61 Alex. A JA 12 61	?	Malta circular	?	Byam.

Leslie Ray explains that, in the course of 100 years, the Crowned Circle stamps have been used :-

- I. As postage stamps ,
  - (a) Prior to the issue of British adhesives.
  - (b) Contemporaneously with the issue of British adhesives.
  - (c) Provisionally during a shortage of adhesives.
  - (d) Actually as an adhesive. ( on instance - Bermuda )
- II. As cancellations or as a surcharge.
- III. As arrival stamps denoting no further postage to pay.
- IV. As frank on Official correspondence.

From the specimens examined and described above it would seem that the Crowned Circle stamps of Egypt were all used as postage stamps, prior to the issue of British adhesives: at Alexandria for 16 years, Suez 12 years, Cairo 4 months. The periods are approximate.

There is evidence that at Suez and Cairo they were used concurrently with adhesives.

The Suez stamp, dated 1882, may perhaps be classified under category I.(c) i.e. provisionally used during a shortage ( ?absence ) of adhesives.

Further data would be welcomed from members of the Circle or others who are in possession of Egyptian Crowned Circle covers. The data should be sent on a " pro forma " similar to that used in the tables which accompany these notes.

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BRITISH POST OFFICE IN EGYPT.

Robert Leslie reports that he has the following, not recorded in Gibbons.

B O 2 on G.B. Penny red, plate numbers 144 and 159.

THE FIRST CAIRO PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1946.

by W. BYAM.

Much of the success which the exhibition undoubtedly achieved must be attributed to the personal efforts of Ibrahim Chafter and it is with particular pleasure that we learn he was created Bey by His Majesty, King Farouk, in recognition of his services to philately in Egypt. We, in England, would like to offer him our congratulations and send him our thanks for the manner in which he has added to our knowledge.

It is with sincere regrets that I have studied the admirable catalogue of the exhibition, as its pages conjure up a feast for those interested in the stamps and postal history of Egypt and yet leave so many tantalising gaps for students, like myself, who were unable to be in Cairo during the early days of March. To read that Ernest Kehr exhibited a "selection of forty pages from a collection of 22 volumes on which are mounted real rarities of all phases of Egyptian postal history"; then to be told an example of the Marc Pourpe air cachet was included, as also a Swiss-Egyptian combination cover, makes it obvious that only those who visited the exhibition can know what new data were brought to light. Nevertheless a study of the catalogue should not be without profit to the members of the Circle in charge of our various Studies and I therefore propose to draw attention to items I have noted which suggest they reveal information of value, and I would invite our members to engage in correspondence with the owners of the specimens which may help to elucidate our problems if more exact details about them can be obtained.

The exhibit by the Survey Department of Egypt must have been one of the most instructive, as it showed in detail, and with clarity all the steps by which the photogravure stamps are now being produced, - the drawings, photo-originales, master negatives and positives, progressive prints, screens, proof sheets and issued stamps. We must rely on Douglas McNeille to see that this knowledge becomes available for our book and, as his collaborator, Gordon Ward can be trusted at once to take up the quest on behalf of the Editorial Committee.

The documents loaned by the Egyptian Postal Administration were of no less importance, as they tell the tale of the inception of the first issue of adhesives. Included is a letter from Muzzi, dated 7 Juin 1864, written to the Khedive Ismail, proposing the issue of adhesives for franking purposes. This is followed by one dated 19 Avril 1865, from the Minister of Public Works, instructing Muzzi to proceed with the project. Details of the stamps printed appear in a letter from Pellas. Documents giving the postal rates for correspondence and for printed matter furnish information which no longer need to be sought from the study of such early letters as we possess. A list dated 25 Aout 1868 gives the quantity of stamps of the first issue "retirée du Ministère des Finances, du 17 Décembre 1865 au 24 Juin 1867". From all of which a fairly complete picture of the 1866 issue can be envisaged when details of these documents are supplied to us, as we believe they will be in L.O.P.

Unfortunately this Government exhibit seems to have lacked material dealing with the second and third issues, but photographic studies for the central design of the first De La Rue stamps were shown, followed by a most important series of essays for stamps from 1912 to 1927. It is noteworthy that 1924 saw the birth of no less than 18 essays for the stamps issued in

1927, suggesting that the first portrait issue of 1923-34, by Harrison, was never intended to have a long life. It is hoped that photos of these essays will be made available for our record.

Other interesting essays, shown hors concours, were exhibited by our old friend, Angeloglou - engraved by M. Ouvre of Paris, in 1938, for the portrait of King Farouk, in brown, in green and in blue. Nowhere in the catalogue to I see mentioned the essays for the Nile River Fete stamps which were to have been the first of the long series of commemoratives which many of us deplore.

Ibrahim Chafter, as a member of the jury, also exhibited hors concours. His material was obviously important and included a used pair of the 5 P.T. 1872 ( Penasson ) perf 13¼ also hitherto unrecorded retouches on the 1923 stamps, about which we shall hope to hear more. His entires included the first example found of the Posta Europea frank Type III for Atfe. N. Alfieris and A. Economides, both members of the jury, exhibited material from the office in Alexandria which should be of assistance to us with the difficult study of the Greek post. I have already written to them asking for their help, in the hope that an Interim Report of this belated Study may soon be possible.

Jean Boulad also exhibited letters from the Greek office, one of which was franked with a pair of 40 lepta Athens printing of May 1862. He and Gabriel Boulad obviously possess much material from the British Offices at Alexandria, Cairo and Suez. It will now fall to the lot of Hearn or Rawson to collect the details. The catalogue alludes to the following stamps - SG.117; 123, Plate 4; 123, Plate 1; 141, Plate 6. There was also, in Gabriel Boulads exhibit, a cover bearing a strip of three SG 94, Plate 12. Jean Boulad showed his famous cover marked PIROSCAFI POSTALI INGLESI, the only example known. Both these members of the E.S.C. exhibited material from the Austrian office at Alexandria which should interest Mumford, but there is no mention of specimens from the Port Said office.

No material from the Russian office at Alexandria seems to have been shown by anyone.

As might have been expected, the stamps of Egypt were well represented but it is doubtful if much new information can be extracted from the catalogue. Of the first issue many perforation varieties are listed but none to disturb the classification adopted by the Circle. Multiple pieces of these stamps, excluding pairs, totalled twelve; the most noteworthy I should think was a block of four of the 10 para used on cover, belonging to Ernest Kehr. Used strips of four of the 10 para are well known but blocks are most uncommon. No piece bigger than four, of any denomination, was shown by anybody and the extreme rarity of such items is accentuated by the Cairo display.

Mme Gracie Wissa made a fine display of first issue stamps on cover. Her bisected 2 P.T. on entire, used from Alexandria, in an item of note and one which we ought to included in our pictorial record. This collector also shewed two covers from Constantinople each franked with single copies of the 1 P.T. and 5 P.T. but unfortunately the destination was not mentioned, so that it is impossible to comment on this 6 P.T. postal rate. This outstanding collection also included a cover bearing the 5 P.T. Of 1867. I would draw the attention of Besly to the block of four 20 para 1872 and urge him to approach Mme Wissa with a request for a photograph of this piece. This lady is obviously an advanced student of the stamps of Egypt and some day I hope she will join our Study Circle, to assist us with her knowledge and material.

Gabriel Boulad exhibited a bisect of the 1 P.T., 1877, of which we would like to hear more in view of the rejection by the Expert Committee of the R.P.S.L. of a similar specimen on cover recently auctioned by Harmer Rooke. This collector also showed a block of four 20 para 1872 and noted that it contained varieties: again I would request Besly to obtain a photograph.

I cannot trace a block of 1 P.T. 1872, in any exhibit but would appeal to our friends in Cairo to know if any such piece was shown, as a photograph of it would be most helpful to those of us investigating the third issue.

The Grand Prix of Egypt was awarded to Albert Ceysens whose collection contained a horizontal pair of the 5 P.T. 1866, with superscription 10 P.T.; two pairs of 10 P.T. 186, one of which was imperf; and what is noted as a pair of the 5 para, third issue, with inverted surcharge, which presumably is the rare tête-bêche of 1879, as pairs of the inverted surcharge are unrecorded and thought to be non-existent. This collection is obviously rich in perforation varieties, among them being several Boulac stamps 15 X 12½ (Besly please investigate).

Of the later issues, Zeheri showed a block of four 1 millièmes London Crown overprint; Gabriel Boulad a block of four 5 P.T. 1879, with control 2; Mme Wissa 50mil. And 200 mill Crown overprint inverted, used - the latter must be a hitherto unrecorded copy, the three specimens previously known, used at Mansura, being in the collection of H.M. King Farouk, Byam and Danson. We would ask Mme Wissa to let us know whether the postmark shows the date and office where her stamp was used. Albert Ceysens showed the De La Rue issue of 1879 in pairs "imperf between"; also a complete pane of 60 stamps 20 paras on 5 P.T. The latter is of great rarity and should be studied in the hope of determining how the stone for this lithographed overprint was laid down.

Douglas McNeill gave a fine display of Crown overprints and the first portrait issue of 1923, with full explanatory notes in this catalogue. He comments on his pane of the 3 mill. lithographed overprint with "crushed crown", saying that this variety on this value was unknown until the last few years.

Among the Air Mail material the most important exhibit was an example of the 1919 emergency R.A.F. service, shown by Maurice de Termes. Unfortunately the type of cachet it bears is not noted. Gabriel Boulad showed a letter carried by Pirée on the first flight to India in April 1929.

In the subsection dealing with stamps overprinted for official use we find a veritable monograph by McNeill. Albert Ceysens showed a strip of three "O.H.H.S." (the 5 mill. with overprint between inverted commas and without Arabic equivalent 0 used at Mina El-Gamh (this rare printing must therefore have been issued at three or more different post towns); and a block of fourteen of the 4 mill. 1915, inverted overprint, used at Marsa Matroub on 1 Dec. 1914.

In the sub-section for Postage Due stamps, McNeill again figured prominently and discussed the settings of 1898 and 1905. No collection appears to have included blocks of 2 P.T. 1884, or 20 paras 1886. Such specimens are of great rarity.

Among what are listed as Pre-Postal Markings, I noted the Cairo Posta Europea frank Type I dated 29th Oct. 1844 and a letter from Benha dated 15th April 1864, both in the collection of Jean Boulad. Gabriel Boulad showed a

specimen of Cairo Type I of 25th May 1844. Pandelis Kerkinos showed three letters of the greatest interest, as they appear to be examples of mail carried by the early Government Post, franked by seal markings (1) Girgeh, 1860; (2) Esna, 1st Sept. 1860; (3) Girgeh, 14th May 1862. Also a letter from Damietta to Cairo dated 1st July, 1861, marked PER CONSEGNA, said to be carried by the same post. As only two examples of such mail ( in the collections of Byam and Charles Fox) are known to the Circle, it is obviously important for the Keeper of the record to obtain fuller details and, if possible, photographs of these covers.

There were disappointingly few entries of stamps from the Egyptian post offices abroad. Gabriel Boulad had some good covers, including one from Dardanelli franked with two 20 paras, 1867, obliterated with a seal marking and another from Constantinople with a strip of four 10 paras, 1879. This collector also showed a stamp of the third issue bearing an extremely rare Kassala postmark, but no date is given.

Stamps of the Suez Canal Company were not plentiful but Albert Ceysens showed blocks of four of the 1 c. ; 5 c. ; a block of twelve of the 40 c. ; and a complete sheet of the 20 c. Mazloun Bey exhibited a cover bearing the 20 c. obliterated 5129 (Port Said), marked on arrival at Suez 22nd July 1868. This collector, President of the Jury, and therefore showing hors concours, exhibited as part of an outstanding display a letter which calls for thought. It is described as franked with 1 P.T. Boulac, obliterated Cairo, and 40 c. Italy of 1863, obliterated Alexandria, and bearing an arrival postmark in Europe. Owing to the Convention between Egypt and Italy which came into force on 1st January, 1873, such a combination cover would seem to require explanation, for it should have been possible to pay the complete postal charges in Cairo, as the Egyptian stamps then had currency to all countries which Italy served as an intermediary. The Circle has seen no combination covers bearing stamps of the Boulac printing and of Italy, though Egyptian stamps are known used to pay additional charges when letters brought into the country by the Italian post had to be redirected. This letter of Ahmed Bey Mazloun travelled in the opposite direction and we would therefore much like to know its destination and the exact date of its despatch.

The details given of the Military Postal Concession exhibits are disappointing, as no mention is made of the Crown numeral franks and the displays appear to have been confirmed to the adhesives.

Among the essays, I looked anxiously for specimens of Negroni's work but failed to find any, even in the fine display of Albert Ceysens. Neither did I see evidence that the U.P.U. essays were shown.

Many of the severely restrained entries on the catalogue leave me wondering what philatelic treasures I have failed to note, but I can assure our friends in Egypt that I have visited their exhibition in spirit and have marvelled at the triumph they achieved.

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M E M B E R S ' P A G E .

J. H. E. Gilbert of 11, Calais Gate, Myatts Park, London, S.E. 5. would be very pleased to hear from anyone having the following stamps for disposal.

SECOND ISSUE, 1867.

Die Varieties.

<u>Catalogue No.</u>	<u>Value.</u>	<u>Colour.</u>	<u>Mint.</u>	<u>Used.</u>
SG. 12.	10 para.	Dull Lilac.	I.	-
13.	20 para.	Blue green.	IV.	-
14.	20 para.	Pale Blue green.	-	II. IV.
18.	1 P.T.	Pale rose.	IV.	-
20.	2 P.T.	Pale Blue.	I. II. III.	-
23.	10 para.	Pale mauve.	II.	III. IV.

POSTAGE DUES.

D.1.	10 para.	With wmk.	-	II. III.
2.	20 para.	- -	I. II.	III.
3.	1 P.T.	- -	II. III. IV.	I.
4.	2 P.T.	- -	III. IV.	-
5.	5 P.T.	- -	-	I. III.
6.	10 para.	No Wmk.	II.	I. II. IV.
7.	20 para.	- -	I. II. III.	I. II. III. IV.
8.	1 P.T.	- -	-	II. III.

LATE APPEARANCE OF "Q.C."

The Editor very much regrets, owing to extreme pressure of work and other unavoidable causes, the late appearance of this number of the "Q.C.". It is hoped, however, to get out the June issue together with the promised Index to Volumes I and II at the end of July or the beginning of August.